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SIXTEEN PAGES — TWO RYALS

Marathon obliges Quit Libya, Reagan advises Americans

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (Agencies) — Marathon Oil Company Friday became the first American company to withdraw its nationals from Libya in response to President Ronald Reagan's advice Thursday to all Americans to quit the country. It advised its eight American employees and their families to leave as soon as possible.

There are an estimated 1,500 Americans working in Libya for 30 companies, including five oil firms. The U.S. State Department is to brief all the American firms operating in Libya on the situation there. Occidental Petroleum as well as EXXON decided last month (Nov. 13) to end their operations in Libya.

One oil expert here said he believed Libya would have trouble replacing the Americans who run its oil production industry if they were all withdrawn. The administration, which has accused Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi of plotting to kill Reagan and other senior U.S. officials, urged the U.S. nationals there to leave and barred Americans from traveling to the country.

Reagan said Friday he regards Qaddafi a

menace to global peace. The president also said he hopes estimated 1,500 Americans in Libya will leave "as quickly as possible." Reagan spoke briefly with reporters in the Oval Office during a picture-taking session with former President Gerald R. Ford, who is visiting Washington. The president avoided further comment on Libya, saying, "All the action's up at the State Department."

Occidental runs the biggest oil U.S. operation in Libya, where it generates about 35 percent of its global production. The company said it had 194 American workers and dependents based in Libya at present. It said in a statement it would arrange "for an orderly departure as soon as possible for those wishing to leave."

Occidental, which produces about 78,000 barrels of oil a day in Libya, said it was too soon to say what effect a total withdrawal of its American employees would have on its operations there. But the company said it planned to fulfill its contractual obligations in Libya unless the U.S. government ordered a shutdown.

Mobil, which has stopped importing Libyan oil since Nov. 1, said it would have no public comment on the actions it might take in response to the president's request.

Mobil, which has about 100 Americans in Libya, would only say "the physical well-being of Mobil employees and their dependents is of paramount importance at this time."

EXXON said Thursday that about 400 non-Libyan employees remained in Libya, of whom fewer than 100 were Americans. They were continuing to leave on a schedule agreed upon with the Tripoli authorities. Administration sources described Thursday move as a first step against Qaddafi's government, which President Reagan has accused of being "a source of international terrorism."

Libya last year provided about 11 percent of U.S. imports. But this has dropped to around 275,000 barrels a day, about two percent of U.S. consumption.

In Tripoli, Libya's official news agency said Friday U.S. citizens in Libya live "in peace and security" and labeled Reagan's request that they leave the country as an "absurd pretension." The dispatch by the Jaga news agency said the "situation" of U.S. citizens in Libya was "better than the one they could have today in the United States."

The agency asked "the people and Congress to come and witness for themselves how Americans living (here) enjoy the same peace and security of all the other citizens who live here (in Libya)." The agency said: "If the president of the United States speaks of terrorism, he must provide proof." Such proof, said the agency, did not exist and would "make it clear that Reagan is a liar, a coward, and that he places his personal dignity above any other consideration."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig said Friday in Brussels that the United States had "up to the minute" information on developments in Libya thanks to sophisticated intelligence apparatus. He made his remarks at a news conference after the bi-annual meeting of the North Atlantic Council. "We enjoy through a lot of sophisticated intelligence capabilities a rather up-to-the-minute access to what is going on in Libya," he said.

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson acknowledged to reporters that Libya under Qaddafi had a history of "activities disturbing to its neighbors." But he said France opposes economic sanctions against Libya, to which it sold 110 Mirage jet fighters in the 1970s. "It is our position it would be wrong to isolate Libya," said Cheysson. "In the past, Libya has caused problems to others, but I don't see they are causing such problems now."

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington told reporters Friday he is not concerned about the safety of British nationals currently in Libya. "Our relations with Libya have gone through, over a period of time, a difficult period, but they're all right now," Carrington said.



SNOWFALL: It has been snowing in London since Tuesday. Friday brought more snows and air traffic has been hit as the country's two major airports have been closed. The picture shows passersby outside the weather center on their way to work. The snowfall is causing renewed transport difficulties. Experts say it will continue for some more time.

Big Ben stops U.K. reels under cold, snow

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AFP) — At 12:27 p.m. Friday time stood still. Big Ben stopped, a victim of cold, wind and snow hitting the British capital.

Clock makers hurried to the tower in Parliament Square to repair the massive mechanism and restore the chimes of "Big Ben," the mighty bell named after Sir Benjamin Hoare, who was Lord Mayor of London when it was installed, that sounds out the quarter hours. While British members of parliament and civil servants were deprived of their time, the rest of the country was in the grip of snow and ice.

London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports were closed. Incoming flights were being diverted to the continent, although Air France said it was continuing its flights to and from London. Liverpool and Manchester airports in the north of the country were also closed.

Heavy snow falls hit much of Britain Friday with up to a meter falling in the north. Roads were closed to traffic in many places. North west of London, a train piled into the back of another. Six persons were injured in the crash and some passengers were reported to be still blocked in the train.

American biologist claims Dinosaur-like animal exists

CHICAGO, Dec. 11 (AP) — A University of Chicago biologist, just back from four weeks in Africa, said Thursday he has photographs that he believes are of footprints of a dinosaur-like creature still roaming the jungles.

Roy Mackal, who has searched for such mysterious animals as the legendary Loch Ness monster since 1965, returned from his second trip to the Congo earlier this week and said he still has not seen the creature that pigmies call mokele-mbenbe. The animal was described to him as being reddish brown with a huge neck, a snake-like head and tail and a body about the size of an elephant.

Mackal said he does not believe the footprints, which he photographed, could have been formed by any known animal. He did not display the photographs. "We would have to stay in that jungle for years to expect to see one of the creatures," Mackal said. "In the few weeks we were there, it had to be a hit-or-miss proposition."

Mackal said that near the Congolese village of Dzeke, a native hunter named Emmanuel Moumoumbela led him to a set of large footprints leading into the Lukuala River. The footprints first were found by Moumoumbela about 16 months ago, just a few days after they were made, he said. When they were discovered, they lay in the middle of a 1.8-meter-wide swath of flattened grass. Because such a swath could be produced only by a large heavy tail, Mackal says the tracks could not have been those of an elephant.

Moumoumbela told Mackal he could not find another set of tracks leaving the water, despite his many years' experience tracking animals in the jungle. Mackal said an elephant would eventually have had to come out of the river. His recent trip has changed Mackal's idea of how the mokele-mbenbe live. "I thought they lived in the rivers before this trip," he said, "but we found no trace of the creatures with our sonar equipment, just

millions of fish and lots of crocodiles. "I now think they must live in the uninhabited swamps and that they use the river only to move from place to place. All of the sightings occur near the rivers simply because that is where the natives live," Mackal said in his description of Mokele-Mbenbe. Mackal is a composite of all the anecdotal evidence he has gathered. Based on that evidence, the creature may be the size of an elephant but with a long neck and a long heavy tail. Mackal says the dinosaurs known as sauroids fit that description best.

The biologist said it was not as unlikely as it might seem to find a seemingly extinct animal: "a small hoofed animal called the okapi was believed to have been extinct for 20 million years," he said. "In 1906, after a half dozen expeditions, an okapi was found not far from where I have been looking for a mokele-mbenbe."

Mackal said the Congolese government has promised to help his search, hiring spotters along the Lukuala. Also hunting for the mokele-mbenbe are Herman and Kia Regusters of California, who left for Africa in early September.

Mitterrand visits Portugal

LISBON, Dec. 11 (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Lisbon Friday for a 24-hour working visit at the invitation of his Portuguese counterpart, Antonio Ramalho Eanes.

Mitterrand's French Air Force jet touched down at Lisbon's Portela Airport and was awaited by Eanes and leaders of Portugal's three-party "Democratic Alliance" government.

The French Socialist leader, accompanied by his wife Danielle, Foreign Affairs Minister (Continued on back page)

OPEC cuts prices by 20 to 70 cents

ABU DHABI, Dec. 11 (AP) — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed Friday to reduce by 20 cents to 70 cents the prices of Gulf crude oil. The Emirates news agency WAM quoted conference officials as saying that the new prices will go into effect as of Jan. 1.

The agency said that the conference agreed also to unify the "differentials" on the medium heavy crudes of Iran and Kuwait at \$32.30 a barrel, or \$1.70 a barrel below the benchmark crude price of \$34 per barrel.

Differential is the variations of prices above and below the \$34, a-barrel price for the light Arabian market crude, depending on quality and proximity to markets. This means that the African low-sulphur crudes sell at higher prices and Gulf medium heavy types sell at prices below the benchmark's.

Originally, the price for the Iranian and Kuwaiti crudes were priced at one dollar below the light Arabian crude price, \$33.00 per barrel. The new differential was set at \$1.70 a barrel, bringing these crudes to \$32.30 per barrel.

Quoting unidentified official sources, the

agency said the conference decided to reduce the United Arab Emirates and Qatar crudes by 20 cents per barrel. It said that the OPEC ministers agreed to broaden the extent of differentials on the heavy Arabian crude oil by \$3 a barrel instead of \$2.50 below the benchmark price.

The reduction of the heavy crude was meant to encourage the industrialized countries to import more of that type. The African high quality crude types, produced by Algeria and Libya, were reduced to \$37 per barrel, down from \$37.50.

But the ministers opted for keeping the Nigerian crude price unchanged — at \$36.50 a barrel — despite the fact that all three African crudes are similar in quality. This was not explained.

The agency said that the conference wanted to help Algeria and Libya "surmount marketing problems" by officially reducing their differentials from a maximum of three-to-four dollars a barrel to \$3.50. Conference sources said the 50 cent reduction will help the two countries avoid having to outbid one another in world markets.

Blast kills Iran leader

BEIRUT, Dec. 11 (AP) — Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini lost another of his closest allies in a bomb blast Friday when Ayatollah Abdul Hossein Dastgheib, Friday prayer leader for the southern city of Shiraz, was killed with seven companions in front of his house, Tehran radio reported.

Dastgheib, Khomeini's personal representative in the southern province of Fars, was on his way to a Shiraz Mosque when a powerful explosion killed him and his companions, according to a spokesman for the revolutionary police force, the Komiteh, in Tehran. In a telephone interview with the Associated Press in Beirut, the spokesman, who refused to be named, said Dastgheib "had taken about 100 steps from his house when the bomb exploded."

The official Pars news agency said the 69-year-old cleric was one of Iran's leading clerics. Both the Komiteh in Shiraz and Tehran radio blamed the killing on the underground Mujahadeen Khalq group which has been blamed by officials for killing more than 1,000 of the country's top official and religious personalities in the past few months.

The Paris office of exiled Mujahadeen leader Massoud Rajavi told the AP in Beirut that Dastgheib was responsible for the shooting of hundreds of Mujahadeen Khalq members, as well as "the institutionalization of club-welding, burning buses and cinemas executing pregnant women and children" in Shiraz.

But Rajavi's spokesman, reading a statement from the guerrilla leader, neither claimed nor disclaimed responsibility for the killing.

Rajavi's office Friday accused Ayatollah Dastgheib of a "massacre of war refugees" who fled to Shiraz after the Iran-Iraq war broke out Sept. 22, 1980.

Fahd to visit U.S. Jan. 19

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Dec. 11 — Crown Prince Fahd will visit the United States on Jan. 19 at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan, the Saudi Press Agency announced Friday.

According to a United States embassy spokesman here, the two leaders will discuss subjects of "mutual concern." He added that high on the list of subjects is peace in the Middle East.

"There are no outstanding issues at present, no special crisis like the AWACS are going to be discussed," he said. The planning of Prince Fahd's visit has been in the works for a long time, and with the substantial and continuing relationship between the two countries it is only natural for these heads of state to meet, the source added.

On Friday, Arab News quoted U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, Richard Murphy, as saying that in dealing with Saudi Arabia, America faces issues of "staggering complexity that dwarfs AWACS many times over." The ambassador was speaking to United States' businessmen during a luncheon in Riyadh.

Murphy told the businessmen that peace in the Middle East is Saudi Arabia's number one concern, and that Jerusalem is central to their thinking. "He also affirmed that current U.S.-Saudi relations are 'stable and solid.' But he added, that relations 'should never be taken for granted by either side because they could slide very fast.' The ambassador characterized American business activity as a 'vital part of the American-Saudi relationship' and 'a major asset' of the American government."

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